

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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R 130758Z JAN 78

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INFO /USIA WASHDC 3324  
AMCONSUL MUNICH

UNCLAS BUDAPEST 218

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV SCUL SOPH HU US

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE RETURN OF THE CROWN

REF: BUDAPEST 118

1. SUMMARY: EDITORIALS IN HUNGARY'S MAJOR NEWSPAPERS HAVE STRESSED ACCEPTANCE OF CROWN AS NATIONAL SYMBOL, ENDORSED PRINCIPLE THAT CROWN WAS RETURNED TO HUNGARIAN PEOPLE, AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO RETURN CROWN, DEPICTING IT AS FRIENDLY ACT DESTINED TO IMPROVE U.S.-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS AND CONTRIBUTE IN MORE GENERAL TERMS TO DETENTE. ALL PAPERS ALSO TREATED RETURN AS VINDICATION OF HUNGARY'S FOREIGN POLICY AND SIGN OF ITS INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE. NEPSZABADSAG CONCENTRATES ON LATTER THEME APPROACHING IT THROUGH ATTACK ON ELEMENTS IN U.S. WHICH OPPOSED CROWN'S RETURN. AT SAME TIME, NEPSZABADSAG POINTS OUT PRESIDENT CARTER, CONGRESS AND COURTS ALL REFUSED TO ACCEPT ARGUMENTS WHICH WOULD PREVENT CROWN'S RETURN. FROM U.S. POINT OF VIEW, OVER-ALL EFFECT OF EDITORIALS IS HIGHLY POSITIVE AND PUTS USG IN GOOD LIGHT.  
END SUMMARY.

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2. EXCEPT FOR INTERESTING ARTICLE IN ELET ES IRODALOM, HUNGARY'S LITERARY WEEKLY, WHICH APPEARED JAN 7, EDITORIALS IN PARTY PAPER NEPSZABADSAG, GOVERNMENT-RUN MAGYAR HIRLAP AND PATRIOTIC PEOPLE'S FRONT DAILY MAGYAR NEMZET ALL APPEARED JAN 8.

3. NEPSZABADSAG CRITICIZED THOSE HUNGARIAN-AMERICANS

FOR WHOM "30 YEARS WERE NOT ENOUGH FOR THE POLITICAL TRENDS TO DISPAPEAR THAT DENY THE SOVEREIGNTY AND THE LEGALITY OF THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC." IT ALSO HAD MUCH FAVORABLE TO SAY ABOUT USG ROLE IN RETURNING CROWN AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S MOTIVES IN PARTICULAR. PETER RENYI, PAPER'S DEPUTY EDITOR, DESCRIBED HUNGARY'S EMIGRES IN AMERICA AS REACTIONARY EVEN TO POINT OF CONDEMNING PRESIDENT CARTER AS A TRAITOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHEN IN FACT HIS ACTION IN RETURNING CROWN OF ST STEPHEN WAS, IN RENYI'S VIEW, AN AFFIRMATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. RENYI SAID FURTHER, PRESIDENT'S ACTION WAS NATURAL STEP IN DIRECTION OF DETENTE. THE ADMINISTRATION, THE CONGRESS AND THE COURTS FINALLY TURNED AWAY THE OBSTRUCTIONISTS, HE EMPHASIZED.

4. RENYI ALSO QUOTED IZVESTIA TO EFFECT THAT PRESIDENT'S DECISION WAS LOGICAL CONSEQUENCE OF PROCESS OF DETENTE AND A SIGN OF UNINTERRUPTED INCREASE OF THE INTERNATIONALIST PRESTIGE OF SOCIALIST HUNGARY. RENYI CONCLUDES THAT ALL WHO HAVE CAUSE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AT HEART REJOICE IN RETURN OF NATIONAL RELICS AND HOPE FOR NEWER STEPS IN DIRECTION OF DETENTE.

5. MAGYAR HIRLAP EDITORIAL WRITTEN BY ANDRAS TABORI FIRST NOTED U.S. SAFEGUARDED TREASURES VERY CARE-  
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FULLY. IT CALLED CROWN A SYMBOL OF NATIONHOOD AND NATIONAL EXISTENCE. RETURN OF CROWN, TABORI WROTE, DEMONSTRATES PLACE HUNGARY OCCUPIES IN FAMILY OF PEOPLES AND SHOWS CHANGES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OVER LAST THREE DECADES. RETURN CONFORMS TO PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. CARTER ENFORCED HIS VIEWS OVER THOSE WHO DID NOT UNDERSTAND, TABORI ADDED. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT RETURN "IS IN HARMONY WITH OUR VIEWS THAT HE (PRESIDENT CARTER) HAD OUR NATIONAL RELICS TRANSFERRED NOT ONLY TO THIS GEOGRAPHICAL POINT (ALSO IMPLIED IS TO THIS GOVERNMENT) BUT HAD THEM RETURNED TO THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE." TABORI SAW RETURN OF CROWN AS CREATING FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS. THE CROWN EXTENDS ITS BEAMS TO FUTURE AS WELL AS PAST, HE CONCLUDED.

6. TIBOR PETHO, EDITOR OF MAGYAR NEMZET, AFTER BASKING IN DELIGHT OF CROWN'S RETURN FOR SEVERAL PARAGRAPHS, NOTED THAT A SUCCESSFUL POLICY AND HARD STRUGGLE TO CREATE STRONG SOCIETY AT HOME AND TO ASSURE RESPECT ABROAD HAD TO PRECEDE THE CROWN'S

RETURN. OUR PEOPLE, PETHO SAID, THANK PRESIDENT CARTER AND ARE GRATEFUL FOR U.S. APPRECIATION THAT LYALTY TO PRINCIPLES OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM PRO-DUCED ONLY APPROPRIATE BASIS ON WHICH HUNGARY COULD COOPERATE FRUITFULLY IN THIS CASE TO SERVE INTERESTS OF THE HUNGARIAN AND AMERICAN PEOPLES. NOT ONLY DOES CROWN'S RETURN SERVE THESE INTERESTS BUT IT ENHANCES PROSPECTS FOR STATES OF DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS TO COOPERATE AND UNFOLDS THE PROCESS OF DETENTE. PETHO ADDED THE RETURN OF CROWN WAS FRIENDLY ACT AND RAISES OPTIMISM THAT SHORTLY THE BARRIERS WILL DISAPPEAR WHICH HAVE OBSTRUCTED ECONOMIC TRADE TIES BASED ON EQUALITY.

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7. IN CONTRAST TO ABOVE EDITORIALS, ARTICLE IN INTELLECTUALLY INFLUENTIAL ELET ES IRODALOM, CONCENTRATED ON PLACING RETURN OF CROWN IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT. ITS AUTHOR, ISTVAN NEMESKURTY, FIRST ESTABLISHED THAT THE HOLY CROWN -- HOLY IS USED REPEATEDLY THOUGHOUT THE ARTICLE -- IS THE INALIEN-ABLE PROPERTY OF HUNGARIAN PEOPLE. HE STRESSED THAT CROWN HAD COME TO SYMBOLIZE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE AND THAT THE CORONATION OF THE KINGS HAD ALWAYS DEPENDED UPON WILL OF THE COUNTRY'S INHABITANTS. THE POWER AND FORCE OF THE CROWN IS INHERENT IN THEIR APPROVAL -- THIS LONG BEFORE SUCH DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES WERE RECOGNIZED ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE, ASSERTED NEMESKURTY. HE NOTED THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT WORKED FOR RETURN OF THE CROWN AND GOT IT BACK. THEREFORE, HE CONCLUDED, THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE SOCIAILIST WORKERS' PARTY IDENTIFY THEMSELVES WITH THE CROWN AND WITH HUNGARIAN HISTORY. HE ADDED: "THE CROWN WILL REMAIN WHAT IT WAS ORIGINALLY: THE SYMBOL OF HUNGARIAN INDEPENDENCE."

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014